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**MANAGEMENT METHODS AND APPARATUS THAT ARE INDEPENDENT OF
OPERATING SYSTEMS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention relates to a management agent that can be ran on any
operating system. More specifically, the management agent of the present invention is
implemented with a set of application program interfaces (APIs) that allows the
management agent to be independent of operating systems. The APIs makes the
management agent portable across multiple operating systems. In an embodiment of
the present invention, a Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect (CPCI) computer
10 system includes a CPCI chassis, a circuit board located within the CPCI chassis, a first
central processing unit (CPU) card coupled with the circuit board. The CPCI computer
system also includes a second CPU card coupled with the circuit board, a first
management agent located within said first CPU card, and a second management
agent located within said second CPU card. The first and second CPU cards each
15 respectively has a first operating system and a second operating system. The first
management agent provides a local management service for the first CPU card and a
system-wide management service for the first and second CPU cards. The second
management agent provides a local management service for the second CPU card. In
addition, a management interface is coupled with the first and second CPU cards. A
20 network interface is coupled with the management agent for allowing the first and
second management agents to interface with the first and second operating systems via
the management interface. The first management agent systemically provides the
system-wide management service for the first and second CPU cards with the first and
second operating systems via the management interface. The second management
25 agent may also provides a management information about the second CPU card to the
first management agent via the management interface and the first management agent
uses this management information to provide the system-wide management service.